EXHIBIT 78

Redacted Excerpts of Deposition of Jeffrey Aronson

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA CUNG LE; NATHAN QUARRY, JON) FITCH, on behalf of) themselves and all others) similarly situated,) Plaintiffs,) vs.) Case No. 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-(PAL) ZUFFA, LLC, d/b/a Ultimate) Fighting Championship and) UFC,

1

April 25, 2017 10:34 a.m.

Videotaped deposition of JEFFREY

ARONSON, pursuant to notice and subpoena,
at the offices of Cohen Milstein Sellers
& Toll, PLLC, 2925 PGA Boulevard, Palm

Beach Gardens, Florida, before Jack Finz,
a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public
within and for the State of Florida.

Defendant.

Job No. 50118

	22	2	24
1	JEFFREY ARONSON	1	JEFFREY ARONSON
2	feel free to ask questions about	2	the public eye, secure a television deal,
3	these four. Just that it's not a	3	and move forward, and give fighters an
4	complete article.	4	opportunity to get fights under a solid
5	Q. Does this article refresh your	5	platform.
6	recollection that you gave an interview	6	Q. Do you recall giving an
7	with Bloody Elbow on December 31, 2014,	7	interview with Iain Kidd of Bloody Elbow
8	or around then?	8	on or around February 24, 2014?
9	A. Not really. I do a ton of	9	A. No.
10	interviews. But I see it.	10	(Aronson Exhibit 6 for
11	Q. Can you please read the	11	identification, transcript of
12	paragraph starting at the top of the page	12	interview with Iain Kidd on
13	that's Bates stamped 963 to the end? It	13	February 24, 2014.)
14	begins with "Just 11 months ago."	14	Q. I am handing you what has been
15	A. "Just 11 months ago, Titan was	15	marked Aronson Exhibit 6. This is a
16	an obscure, regional promotion that	16	public article we printed off the
17	wasn't signing fighters and had no TV	17	Internet. Let me give you a chance to
18	deal. Today we're mentioned up there	18	take a look through it.
19	with the top three or four promotions.	19	A. Okay.
20	Are we three? Are we four? I don't	20	Q. Does this article refresh your
21	know. Are we making leaps and bounds in	21	recollection that you gave an interview
22	the right direction? 100 percent. We're	22	with Iain Kidd of Bloody Elbow on or
23	diligently working to continue moving	23	around February 24, 2014?
24	forward."	24	A. Not really.
25	Q. Is that an accurate quote from	25	Q. As far as you recall, does
	23	3	25
1	JEFFREY ARONSON	1	JEFFREY ARONSON
2	you in this interview, as far as you	2	this article accurately quote you?
3	recall?	3	MS. DENNIS: Objection to
4	A. I think so.	4	form.
5	Q. Do you still believe that when	5	A. I don't know. I don't
6	you acquired Titan at the end of 2013	6	remember the interview.
7	that it was an obscure regional promotion	7	Q. If you start at the bottom of
8	and wasn't signing fighters and/or a TV	8	page 2, the article purports to quote
9	deal?	9	you, around halfway down page 2.
10	A. Yes.	10	Do you see that?
11	Q. What are the other top three	11	A. "When I started Alchemist,"
12 13	or four promotions that you were	12 13	that part?
14	referring to? MS. DENNIS: Objection to	14	Q. Yes. Can you read that quote? A. "When I started Alchemist in
15	form.	15	2010," I think the year is wrong, by the
16	101111.	# 3	
	MR SCHIII 7: Go ahead	16	
	MR. SCHULZ: Go ahead.	16 17	way, "with Lex McMahon, MC Hammer and
17	A. UFC, Bellator, World Series of	17	Nima Safapour, the goal was to create the
17 18	A. UFC, Bellator, World Series of Fighting, and probably One FC.	17 18	Nima Safapour, the goal was to create the best management company in MMA, to
17 18 19	A. UFC, Bellator, World Series of Fighting, and probably One FC. Q. When you purchased a	17 18 19	Nima Safapour, the goal was to create the best management company in MMA, to cultivate the top prospects and to get
17 18 19 20	 A. UFC, Bellator, World Series of Fighting, and probably One FC. Q. When you purchased a controlling stake in Titan, what were 	17 18 19 20	Nima Safapour, the goal was to create the best management company in MMA, to cultivate the top prospects and to get them into UFC, to find the best veterans
17 18 19 20 21	A. UFC, Bellator, World Series of Fighting, and probably One FC. Q. When you purchased a controlling stake in Titan, what were your plans for the promotion?	17 18 19 20 21	Nima Safapour, the goal was to create the best management company in MMA, to cultivate the top prospects and to get them into UFC, to find the best veterans and start running their careers
17 18 19 20 21 22	A. UFC, Bellator, World Series of Fighting, and probably One FC. Q. When you purchased a controlling stake in Titan, what were your plans for the promotion? A. My plans were to get the	17 18 19 20	Nima Safapour, the goal was to create the best management company in MMA, to cultivate the top prospects and to get them into UFC, to find the best veterans and start running their careers professionally and get them involved with
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. UFC, Bellator, World Series of Fighting, and probably One FC. Q. When you purchased a controlling stake in Titan, what were your plans for the promotion? A. My plans were to get the promotion back into the public eye. It	17 18 19 20 21 22	Nima Safapour, the goal was to create the best management company in MMA, to cultivate the top prospects and to get them into UFC, to find the best veterans and start running their careers professionally and get them involved with mainstream sponsors and things outside of
17 18 19 20 21 22	A. UFC, Bellator, World Series of Fighting, and probably One FC. Q. When you purchased a controlling stake in Titan, what were your plans for the promotion? A. My plans were to get the	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Nima Safapour, the goal was to create the best management company in MMA, to cultivate the top prospects and to get them into UFC, to find the best veterans and start running their careers professionally and get them involved with

	26	5		28
1			-	
1	JEFFREY ARONSON		1	JEFFREY ARONSON
2	their retirement."		2	MS. DENNIS: Objection to
3	Q. Can you read the rest of the		3	form.
4	quote?		4	A. Because they were incredibly
5	A. Sure. "We have done	- 1	5	talented, and fighters at the same level
6	exceptionally well with that, but the	- 1	6	with one or two fights didn't want to
7	problem I started running into as I		7	risk losing and getting a loss on their
8	started signing more and more top young	- 1	8	record so early.
9	prospects, was I couldn't get them any		9	Q. Do you still believe that the
10	fights. No one would fight these guys.	- 1	0	UFC is typically or was at the time
11	So you've got these incredible 2-0, 3-0	- 1	1	typically not looking for a kid who is
12	prospects, but you can't get them any		2	2-0 and 3-0?
13	fights! The problem is the UFC is	1	3	MS. DENNIS: Objection to
14	typically not looking for a kid who is	1	4	form.
15	2-0 or 3-0, so they have to fight. It	1	5	A. Yes.
16	has become an epidemic. I started	1	6	Q. Was it your perception at the
17	talking to other managers in the field	1	7	time that the UFC already had more
18	and everybody has the same problems."	1	8	fighters signed than they could use?
19	Q. Can you read the last	1	9	A. No.
20	paragraph, too?	2	0	Q. Why was the UFC typically not
21	A. "I decided about a year ago	2	1	looking for a kid who was 2-0 or 3-0?
22	that I had had enough. I was looking	2		MS. DENNIS: Objection to
23	around at different promotions and seeing	2	3	form.
24	what was going on in the business of MMA.	2	4	A. Very early in development.
25	I got myself familiar with some of the	2	5	Q. So the UFC is looking for a
	2'	7		29
1	JEFFREY ARONSON		1	JEFFREY ARONSON
2			2	
3	promoters out there, and then I started a new company called Titan FC and I brought		3	longer record, generally, as far as you are aware?
4			<i>3</i>	
5	over a bunch of guys that had run the shows for the old Titan, because there's		1 5	MS. DENNIS: Objection to
				form, foundation.
6 7	so much that goes into putting on a good		6 7	A. I'm not aware. I just know
	show."			that it is just very early in a
8	Q. Other than the first sentence		8	prospect's career, and to put them on a
9	that says you started Alchemist in 2010,		9	stage like that would be crazy.
10	is there anything else in there that is		0	Q. Can you read the next part of
11	incorrect?		1	that page?
12	A. No.	- 1	2	A. Where would you like?
13	Q. Does this quote accurately		3	Q. Starting "I pride myself."
14	explain what made you decide to start		4	A. "I pride myself on my business
15	promoting in MMA?	- 1	5	acumen, and the one thing I really do is
16	MS. DENNIS: Objection to		6	study what's going on in the industry and
17	form.		7	the field. History repeats itself, so
18	A. Some. I mean, there's a lot	1		look at everybody that's going up against
19	that went into it.	1		the UFC, Bodog, Elite XC, Strikeforce
20	Q. Do you disagree with anything	2		Everybody that has tried to challenge UFC
D I	Alexa arra An'i	2		has wound up on their butt. Nobody has
21	in this quote?		_	1 11 11 11 11
22	A. No.	2		been able to do it."
22 23	A. No.Q. Why do you think there were	2 2	3	Q. Does that quote accurately
22 23 24 25	A. No.	2	3 4	

40 38 1 1 JEFFREY ARONSON JEFFREY ARONSON 2 2 translates into the cage, so everybody how could I bid against the UFC? I am 3 3 deserves a second chance. offering the fighter an opportunity to go 4 to UFC, so how could I bid against them? 4 Q. Are those vets trying to get 5 back into the UFC, in you experience? 5 Q. If you turn to page 4 of this 6 6 A. I think they are trying to get interview. Can you read the paragraph in 7 7 their careers on a positive flow. That's the middle of the page that begins with 8 the most important thing to these guys. 8 "No one is the going to tell me." 9 9 Q. With the fights that Titan FC A. "No one is going to tell me 0 10 puts on, are you trying to compete that the best talent in the world is not directly with the UFC? .1 at that UFC level. A guy might have a 11 little bit of a rough patch in the UFC 2 MS. DENNIS: Objection to 12 .3 but the year before he might have been 13 form. 4 A. You asked me this numerous 14 ready to fight for the title. Look at somebody like George Sotiropolous who we 5 times, and my answer is not going to 15 6 16 just signed. He went through a rough change. .7 17 patch, but a year before that he was one Q. Can you give your answer one 8. more time for me? 18 fight away from the lightweight title." Q. In early 2014, do you think 9 MS. DENNIS: Objection to 19 20 20 that the best talent in the world was at form; asked and answered. 21 21 the UFC level? A. No. 22 22 A. Not necessarily. Bellator Q. If the UFC offers a Titan FC 23 23 certainly had fighters on par with UFC. fighter a contract, do you ever bid 24 against the UFC for that contract? 24 Strikeforce had fighters on par with UFC. 25 25 I think those have all been established MS. DENNIS: I object to form. 39 41 1 JEFFREY ARONSON 1 JEFFREY ARONSON 2 2 A. How could I bid if it's in my and they have become champions in the 3 3 UFC. contract that they have an automatic out? 4 Q. So you can't bid under your 4 Q. Strikeforce at the time was 5 5 contract? controlled by Zuffa; is that right? 6 6 A. No, I don't think in 2014. I MS. DENNIS: I object to form. 7 A. They have an automatic 7 don't know. I don't know the date. 8 release. It's a Zuffa Out clause. 8 Q. Did Titan FC sometimes promote 9 Q. Can you explain how that works 9 fights between two different UFC 0 0 veterans? then? 11 .1 A. If Zuffa comes calling within A. Probably. 2 2 Q. Do you recall whether Titan FC X amount of time before a Titan event, .3 29 was a fight between Mike Ritchev and then the fighter is free to go and fight 13 4 **George Sotiropolous?** 4 for Zuffa. 5 Q. So under that contract you 5 A. Yes. 6 can't offer the fighter more money to 16 Q. Do you know if they were UFC 17 17 keep them? veterans? 8 18 MS. DENNIS: Form. A. Yes. We have also put on UFC 9 A. A fighter could say no. A 19 verse Bellator, Bellator verse Prospect. 20 20 fighter could say no if they wanted to I mean, it's back and forth, back and stay with Titan, certainly. But why 21 21 forth. 22 would I bid against myself? 22 Q. Were all of the UFC vets who 23 Q. What I am asking is would you 23 were acquired by Titan FC fighters who 24 bid against the UFC. 24 UFC had released? 25 A. If I have a Zuffa Out clause, 25 MS. DENNIS: Objection to

	50)	52
1	JEFFREY ARONSON	1	JEFFREY ARONSON
2	relationship with the UFC, Titan's	2	form.
3	relationship?	3	A. If anything, we knew who were
4	MS. DENNIS: Objection to	4	the parties involved there. But did it
5	form.	5	add anything? I don't know. We had a
6	A. I think it's fine. I mean,	6	good working relationship with them at
7	it's okay. It's good.	7	Alchemist and we have a good working
8	Q. Since you took over at Titan,	8	relationship with them today.
9	do you know about how many Titan fighters	9	Q. If you look at the next page,
10	have gone on to the UFC?	10	page 3, the top of page 3.
11	A. An exact list?	11	A. Yes.
12		12	
13	- '		Q. The interviewer is asking
14	3 E	13	about talent exchange. A. Yes.
15	or were signed to Titan or	14	
16	Q. That were signed to Titan.	15	Q. Do you know what the article
	A. I don't. I'm sorry.	16	is referring to when it says talent
17	Q. In this article it says — it	17	exchange?
18	quotes you as saying "Since I took over	18	A. You know, there was a big push
19	Titan," and this article was August 22,	19	a few years ago for different promotions
20	2014, "I would say a minimum of ten	20	to challenge each other and put guys
21	fighters have gone to the UFC."	21	against it. None of it ever came to
22	Does that number sound	22	fruition. I think my position on this
23	inaccurate to you?	23	was that my athletes, I felt, were of the
24	MS. DENNIS: The entire quote	24	top level in the world and there was no
25	actually goes on to say "and we're	25	promotion I wouldn't put my guys up
	51	L	53
1	JEFFREY ARONSON	1	JEFFREY ARONSON
2	not missing a beat," just for the	2	against.
3	record.	3	Q. When you say put your guys up
4	A. Can you tell me where it is?	4	against, do you mean co-promote an event
5	Q. Yes, it's on page 2.	5	against a fighter from another promotion?
6	A. I mean, at that point I'm	6	A. No, have a fighter from
7	assuming that that's what the number was.	7	another promotion come to Titan and
8	Q. At the top of that quote it	8	fight. I don't think that would be a
9	says "I think we have an excellent	9	co-promotion.
10	relationship with the UFC." Would you	10	Q. The second sentence here says
11	disagree with that characterization?	11	"I think we are going to see cross-
12	A. No. I think we have a good	12	promotion superfights at some point."
13	relationship with UFC.	13	A. Um-hum.
14	Q. Did the long-term work you did	14	Q. Do you know what
15	at Alchemist help you with your personal	15	cross-promotion superfights referred to?
16	relationship with UFC?	16	A. That's exactly what I was just
17	MS. DENNIS: Objection to	17	talking to, where one guy would come over
18	form.	18	from one promotion and fight another.
19	A. I personally have never	19	But that doesn't mean a co-promoted
20	negotiated a deal with UFC in my life.	20	event. It's just you are taking two
21	So	21	stars and putting them in onto one mat.
	50	1	
		22	It also says right underneath
22	Q. Do you disagree that your work	22 23	It also says right underneath that I say I see talent exchanges
22 23	Q. Do you disagree that your work at Alchemist helps you in your	23	that I say I see talent exchanges
22	Q. Do you disagree that your work	- 1	

	74			76
1	JEFFREY ARONSON		1	JEFFREY ARONSON
2	with Bellator. I've dealt with other		2	
3	promotions when I was with Alchemist. I		3	my job well.") Q. So in that interview in
4				Q. So in that interview in March strike that.
	know who the key players are. And I			
5	found UFC to be the best promotion in the		5	Do you think that in March of
6 7	world to deal with. So that's an honest			2016 it was the goal of all MMA fighters
	statement.			to fight in the UFC, if they could get
8	Q. Did you have a good		3 t 9	there?
9	relationship with the UFC at the time you			MS. DENNIS: Objection to
10	gave this interview, which was, I) L	form.
11	believe, in March of 2016?			A. I do. I think UFC is the best
12	A. I've always I told you, we			promotion in the United States. I think
13	have always had a good relationship with	1		t has plenty of competitors, but I think
14	UFC. I mean, it's never been anything	1		hat they are far and above the best
15	different.			promotion in the United States. Or in
16	(A video was played, as			he world. I believe that.
17	follows:		7	Q. Do you think it is the goal of
18	"MR. McGRATH: Why does this			all MMA fighters to fight in UFC today,
19	guy this want to fight in the	1		f they can get there?
20	championships? What is your	2		MS. DENNIS: Objection to
21	personal goal for the organization?	2		form.
22	MR. ARONSON: To continue to	2		A. I do. I would want to.
23	increase the opportunity for	2		Q. Can you describe what
24 25	certain fighters, to increase the	2.2		cross-promotion is to me, as you
2.5	eyeballs, so increase the amount of	\top	> ι	inderstand the term?
	75			77
1	JEFFREY ARONSON		1	JEFFREY ARONSON
2	shows, and to constantly do better		2	A. We went through that.
3	than the show before. I really		3	Q. I think we covered that.
4	think it's important not to look at			You're right.
5	anyone else as a competitor. I		5	MR. SILVERMAN: Why don't we
6	mean, to me my only competitor is		5	take a little break.
7	myself. So I want that every Titan		7	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are
8	show to be better than the last		8	going off the record at 12:18.
9	Titan show. I want the fighters to		9	(A recess was taken.)
10	put on the best fights. I want	1		THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Here begins
11	them to have the best opportunity.	1		Media Unit No. 2 in the continued
12	And if I could help facilitate some	1		deposition of Jeff Aronson. We are
13	of my fighters getting to fulfill	1		back on the record at 12:29 p.m.
14	their dream, because, let's face	1		(Aronson Exhibit 11 for
15	it, you go into every gym in the	1		identification, transcript of
16	world and you ask the guys in an	1		interview by Duane Finley on June
17	MMA gym what is your goal in life?	1		15, 2015.)
18	UFC champion. Right? Come on. We	1		BY MR. SILVERMAN:
19	could all kid ourselves, we could	1		Q. I am handing you what has been
20	all say it's this promotion, that	2		narked as Aronson Exhibit 11.
21	promotion. It's not. It's UFC.	2		Let me know when you have had
22	That's the top of the mountain. So	2		chance to read it.
23	if I could be a facilitator and I	2		A. Okay.
24	can be somebody that can help these	2		Q. Have you seen this article
25	guys get to that point, I've done	2	5 b	pefore?

	78		80
1			
1	JEFFREY ARONSON	1	JEFFREY ARONSON
2	A. I don't remember it.	2	was the 20th promotion to have their
3	Q. Do you remember giving an	3	fights catalogued under the UFC banner.
4	interview to Duane Finley around June 15,	4	Do you know if that's accurate?
5	2015?	5	A. No.
6	A. Not particularly.	6	Q. No, you don't know?
7	Q. We were talking earlier about	7	A. I think the definition of
8	Fight Pass; right?	8	catalog is that they showed the old
9	A. Um-hum.	9	fights, not that they were live streaming
.0	Q. When did Titan and Zuffa enter	10	events on the network.
1	into a deal to have Titan show up on	11	Q. And did Fight Pass put the
2	Fight Pass?	12	live Titan events on the network?
3	A. I'm not sure of the date. I	13	A. Yes.
4	think I said it here somewhere.	14	Q. You can put that one aside.
5	I'm really not sure. I think	15	Were you involved at all in
6	it was 2015.	16	the negotiations between Zuffa and Titan
7	Q. Why did Titan enter into a	17	regarding the Fight Pass deal?
8	deal with Zuffa to broadcast Titan shows	18	A. No.
9	on Fight Pass?	19	Q. Who was involved in those
0	A. The international exposure.	20	negotiations?
1	Fight Pass is positioning itself kind of	21	A. I was in the background,
2	as the Netflix of fights. And it was a	22	dealing with Lex McMahon, and Lex was
3	great way to establish more publicity on	23	negotiating with UFC.
4	the Titan events by getting a push by the	24	Q. Did you discuss those
5	CPO machine.	25	negotiations with Mr. McMahon?
	79		81
1	JEFFREY ARONSON	1	JEFFREY ARONSON
2	Q. Does Fight Pass help pay net	2	A. Yes.
3	fee fighters game exposure?	3	Q. Did you have final approval
4	A. Sure. I think that any time	4	over the terms of the deal with Zuffa?
5	you are on a network that's being	5	A. Yes.
6	distributed, you have all eyes on you.	6	Q. Are you familiar with the
7	So anything that's going on, you know,	7	terms of the deal?
8	when they see a hot prospect, or there's	8	terms of the dear.
9	someone that they really like, they keep	9	
0	a close watch on him. But they did that	10	
1	at CBS, too.	11	
2	Q. At the time Titan had a deal	12	
3		13	
3 4	to have events broadcast on CBS; is that	14	
	right?		
5	A. Yes.	15	
6	Q. Were there any advantages to	16	
7	Titan to be broadcast on Fight Pass above	17	
8	and beyond being broadcast on CBS?	18	
9	MS. DENNIS: Objection to	19	
0	form.	20	
1	A. Yes.	21	
2	Q. What were they?	22	
3	A. Promotion in over 150	23	
4	countries, through UFC's PR machine.	24	
5	Q. The article says that Titan FC	25	

21 (Pages 78 to 81)

	102		104
	102	1	INSTRUCTIONS TO WITNESS
1		2	INSTRUCTIONS TO WITNESS
2	STATE OF)	3	Places mad your demosition area compfully
3) :ss		Please read your deposition over carefully
4	COUNTY OF)	4	and make any necessary corrections. You should state
5		5	the reason in the appropriate space on the errata
6		6	sheet for any corrections that are made.
7	I, JEFFREY ARONSON, the witness	7	After doing so, please sign the errata sheet
8	herein, having read the foregoing	8	and date it.
9	testimony of the pages of this deposition,	9	You are signing same subject to the changes
10	do hereby certify it to be a true and	10	you have noted on the errata sheet, which will be
11	correct transcript, subject to the	11	attached to your deposition.
12	corrections, if any, shown on the attached	12	It is imperative that you return the original
13	page.	13	errata sheet to the deposing attorney within thirty
14		14	(30) days of receipt of the deposition transcript by
15		15	you. If you fail to do so, the deposition transcript
16	JEFFREY ARONSON	16	may be deemed to be accurate and may be used in court.
17	vertier monden	17	
18		18	
19		19	
20	Sworn and subscribed to before	20	
21		21	
	me, this day of	22	
22	, 2017.	23	
23		24	
24		25	
25	Notary Public	45	
	103		105
1		1	ERRATA
2	CERTIFICATE	2	
3	STATE OF FLORIDA)	3	
4	: SS.	4	
5	COUNTY OF PALM BEACH)	5	I wish to make the following changes,
6	I, JACK FINZ, a Shorthand	6	for the following reasons:
7	Reporter and Notary Public within and	7	for the following reasons.
8	for the State of Florida, do hereby		DACE I DIE
9	certify:	8	PAGE LINE
10	That JEFFREY ARONSON, the	9	CHANGE:
11	witness whose deposition is	10	REASON:
12	hereinbefore set forth, was duly sworn	11	CHANGE:
13	by me and that such deposition is a	12	REASON:
14	true record of the testimony given by	13	CHANGE:
15	the witness.	14	REASON:
16		15	CHANGE:
17	I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to	16	REASON:
18	this action by blood or marriage, and	17	CHANGE:
19	that I am in no way interested in the	18	REASON:
20	outcome of this matter.	19	CHANGE:
21	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have	20	REASON:
22		21	
23	hereunto set my hand this 4th day of May, 2017.	22	
23 24	1v1ay, 2017.	23	WITNESS' SIGNATURE DATE
£.4		24	
25	JACK FINZ	25	
د ے	JACK TINZ	1-0	